

In re Application of White et al.
Serial No. 10/033,177

In th Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) In a computer network, a system
~~comprising,~~ comprising:
a first service for providing access to data based on an associated identity of
each user;
a second service for providing access to data based on an associated
identity of each user; and
a communications mechanism configured to exchange information between
the first service and the second service, the first service configured as a publisher
of change data made by users via the first service, and the second service
configured as a subscriber of the change data, the communications mechanism
communicating change information of the first service to the second service using a
service-to-service communications protocol including determining the a role of
each subscribing user and filtering the data based on each determined role. *proto c'*

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2. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the communicating of the
change information comprises communicating a batch of similar change
information from the first service to the second service.

3. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the information exchange
comprises an asynchronous communication.

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4. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the information exchange is initiated by the subscriber.

5. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the information exchange is initiated by the publisher.

6. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first service comprises a class of service that is different from the class of service of the second service.

7. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising a filter operable to filter the change information based on the associated identity of each user.

8. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the communications mechanism is further configured to communicate a response from the second service to the first service in response to the communicating of the change information from the first service to the second service.

9. (New) The system of claim 8 wherein the communications mechanism is further configured to resend the change information from the first service to the second service if the response is not received.

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10. (New) In a computer network, a method comprising:
- communicating data from a first service to a second service using a service-to-service communications protocol, the data including change data of at least one user of the first service;
- receiving the data at the second service; and
- updating information at the second service based on the change data.
11. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising communicating a response from the second service to the first service in response to receiving the data at the second service.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising resending the data from the first service to the second service if the response is not received at the first service.
13. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising initiating the communication of data from a host of the first service.
14. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising initiating the communication of data from a host of the second service.
15. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising filtering the data based on an identity associated with at least one user of the first service.

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16. (New) In a computer network, a method comprising:
receiving a change from a user at a first service; and
communicating change data from a first service to a second service that
subscribes to change information from the first service, the change data
communicated automatically via a service-to-service communications protocol.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising communicating a
response from the second service to the first service in response to receiving the
change information at the second service.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising resending the
change information from the first service to the second service if the response is
not received at the first service.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising initiating the
communication of change information from a host of the first service.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising initiating the
communication of change information from a host of the second service.

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21. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising filtering the change information based on an identity associated with at least one user of the first service.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein communicating the changed data automatically via a service-to-service communications protocol comprises determining a role of each subscribing user and filtering the data based on each determined role.

23. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, which when executed perform steps comprising:

receiving at a second service data communicated from a first service via a service-to-service communications protocol, the data including change data of at least one user of the first service; and

updating information at the second service based on the change data.

24. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, which when executed perform steps comprising:

receiving a change from a user at a first service; and

communicating change data from a first service to a second service that subscribes to change information from the first service, the change data communicated automatically via a service-to-service communications protocol.

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based on an associated identity of each user. Column 26, lines 3-24 and column 133, lines 7-18 of Reed are referenced. The Office action seems to be equating the term service as used in the present invention with a computer as taught by Reed. This interpretation cannot be supported by the teachings of Reed.

A service is generally defined as a specialized software-based function or set of functions provided by a network server. As is widely understood in the industry, a typical service is a software program that may use XML (extensible markup language) documents to exchange information with other software programs (such as another service) via common Internet protocols. In this manner, services can accomplish the exchange of information over a network, such as the Internet, over a wide range of data formats because the information exchanged is a function of the service schema (rules for organizing data based on the data itself as opposed to its format) and not a function of the kind of data, such as email through SMTP or web documents through FTP.

The cited and applied reference teaches, generally, the concept of computer systems designated as providers and consumers in a communications network setting. More specifically, information may be exchanged through communications objects among multiple providers and consumers via known communication protocols such as HTTP. See column 8, lines 34-44 of Reed. As such, various pieces of information can be exchanged via this provider/consumer network of computers wherein each computer is designated as a provider in some instances and/or a consumer in other instances.

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Reed, however, does not teach a service being designated as a provider or as a consumer. In fact, Reed shows no teaching, suggestion, or even any appreciation of services. Further, Reed cannot possibly be used to support a teaching of using a service-to-service communication protocol to communicate change information between a first service and a second service as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, claim 1 recites determining the role of each subscriber user and filtering the data based on each determined role. The Office action contends that Reed discloses this element in column 7, lines 58-67, column 8, lines 1-3, column 19, lines 23-67 and column 20, lines 1-25. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited and applied portion of Reed is directed to preference elements which are defined in Reed as special element composite types that are used to specify object attributes that are editable by a consumer computer. That is, preference elements are fields in an object that may be written to by the subscriber computer to further define the behavior of the object. For example, a preference element could be updated by the consumer computer to adjust the pulling (refresh) interval for seeking a change in information. Thus, a preference element is simply a modifier of behavior for an object.

The recitation of claim 1 is directed to an entirely different and unrelated concept. The role of a subscriber defines the boundaries of what data the subscriber may access. In one example implementation, publishers maintain a roleList, wherein potential subscribers have an associated role that is used to determine whether or not the subscriber is allowed to access the provider's stored

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data. In the context of claim 1, the communications mechanism is configured to exchange information between the first service and the second service based on the role of subscriber. For example, if the subscriber is not allowed to obtain change information because of the role setting in the provider's roleList, the change information that is being communicated is filtered from being sent to the particular subscriber. Reed does not teach, suggest or even have any appreciation of using a role in a provider profile to filter communications to a subscriber.

As a result, claim 1 is clearly not anticipated by Reed for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that new claims 2-22, by similar analysis, are not anticipated by Reed, as each of these claims includes at least the limitation of "communicating data from a first service to a second service using a service-to-service communications protocol" or similar language (along with additional limitations). As discussed above regarding claim 1, Reed does not disclose this limitation.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office Action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

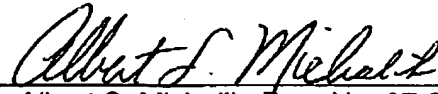
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-24 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time, along with Transmittal and Change of Correspondence Address are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: *Feb. 25, 2004*


Albert S. Michalik

3060 Amendment